

Usborne Nature Cards



Flowers



Usborne Nature Cards

Flowers

These colourful, fact-filled cards show 30 common flowers to spot and identify.

Charming pictures on the front of the cards make it easy to recognize each flower.



On the back, there are flower facts and detailed sketches.

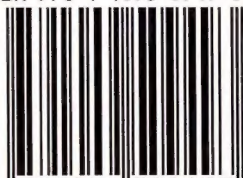
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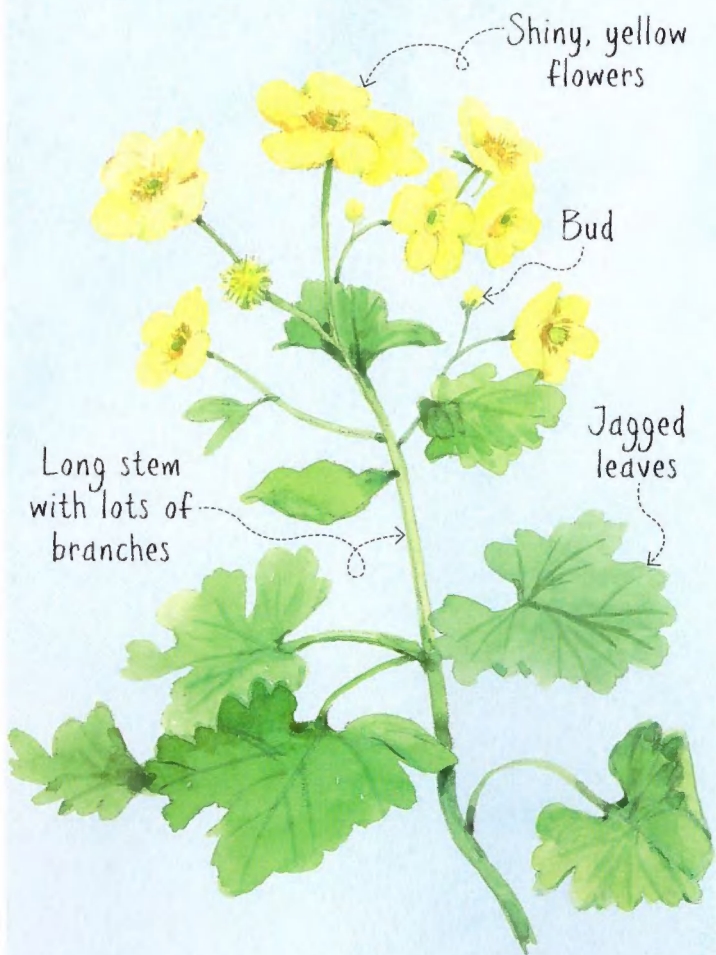
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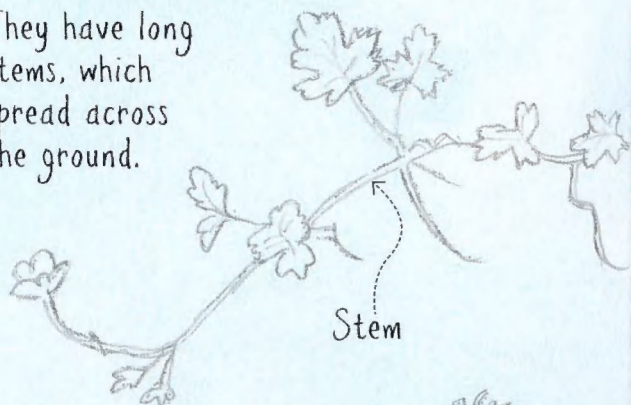
Buttercup



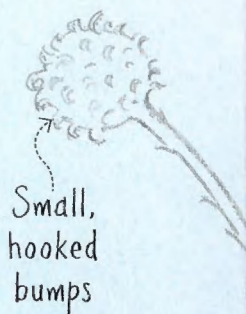


Look for buttercups in spring and summer, scattered across woods and meadows.

They have long stems, which spread across the ground.



After flowering, see if you can spot tiny bumps on the end of each stem. These are the fruits.



Flowerly fact: Some people say that if you hold a buttercup under your chin and your skin turns yellow, this means you like butter.



Bluebell

Long, bendy
stem

The blue flowers are
shaped like bells.



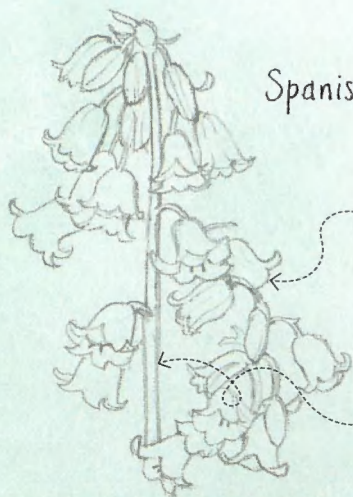
Smooth, shiny
leaves



Bluebells bloom in April and May.

Look for bluebells in woods. They have a strong, sweet smell.

See if you can spot Spanish bluebells. They have larger flowers which don't smell so sweet.



Spanish bluebell

The flowers can be blue, white or pink.

Straight stem



Flowery fact: Hundreds of years ago, the sticky juice inside bluebell leaves was used as a glue.

Aubretia

Lots of purple
flowers

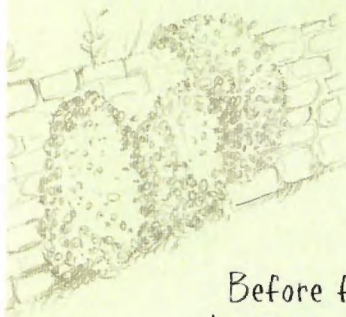
Hairy leaves with
jagged edges



Tangled stems



You can spot aubretia flowers (say oar-breeshah) between April and June.



Look for aubretias clinging to rocks, or tumbling down walls.

Before flowering, aubretias are covered with soft, green buds.

The buds turn from pink to purple as they open out.



Soft buds



Flowery fact: A single aubretia can grow hundreds of flowers.

Crocus

Upright petals make
a bowl shape.

Waxy petals
and leaves

Thin,
grass-like
leaves

Mainly purple,
yellow or
white flowers





Look for crocuses in woods and gardens. They flower between January and March.

White stripe



Crocus shoots poke up from the ground in early spring. You can recognize them by the white stripe on each leaf.

You might spot big crocuses with stripy petals. These are called Dutch crocuses.



Thin stripes



Flowerly fact: Crocuses are used to make saffron, a yellow spice used in cooking.

Cowslip

The yellow flowers
make a trumpet shape.

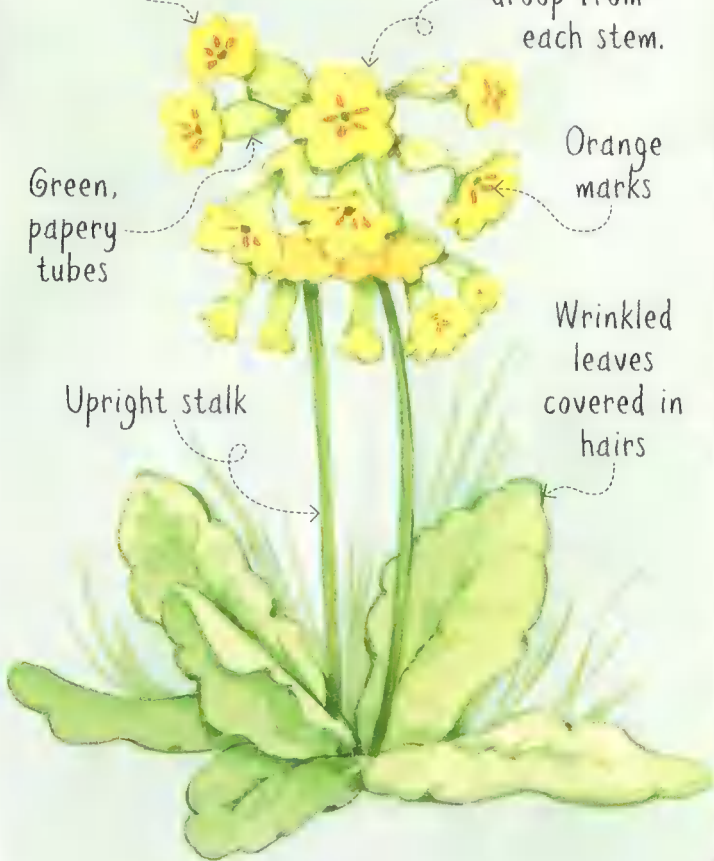
Lots of flowers
droop from
each stem.

Green,
papery
tubes

Orange
marks

Upright stalk

Wrinkled
leaves
covered in
hairs

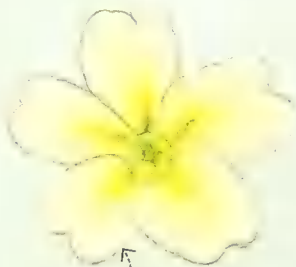




You can find cowslips in April and May. They grow on roadsides or in fields.

Cowslips and primroses often grow near each other. Sometimes, they combine to produce another kind of plant, called a false oxlip.

False oxlips have larger, paler flowers which look a bit like primrose flowers.



Primrose



Cowslip



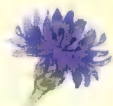
False
oxlip



Flowery fact: Butterflies lay their eggs on the crinkly leaves of cowslips.

Cornflower





Cornflowers come out
between June and August.



You'll find cornflowers growing in
gardens, fields of crops and wasteland.

Look for a scaly cup shape
beneath each flower. The scales
protect the flower as it opens out.

Cornflowers are bright blue
to attract insects, such as
bees and butterflies.



Flowerly fact: Cornflowers are used in face creams.

Dandelion





You can find dandelions growing almost anywhere, especially on lawns.

After the petals dry up, they leave behind a fuzzy ball of seeds, called a 'clock'.

Clock

Seed

When the wind blows, the seeds are carried away.



Flowery fact: 'Dandelion' is from the French for 'lion's teeth', because of the plant's jagged leaves.

Daisy

White flowers, often
tinged with pink

Yellow centre

Slim, hairy
stalk

The
leaves
have
rounded
edges.

Bud





You can see daisies at any time of year. They grow in clusters, close to the ground.

Look for daisies sprinkled across lawns and parks.



Daisy flowers close at night and open during the day. The plant gets its name - 'daisy' from 'day's eye'.



Closed
daisy flower



Flowery fact: The Ancient Romans thought that the juices of daisies could help heal battle wounds.

Daffodil

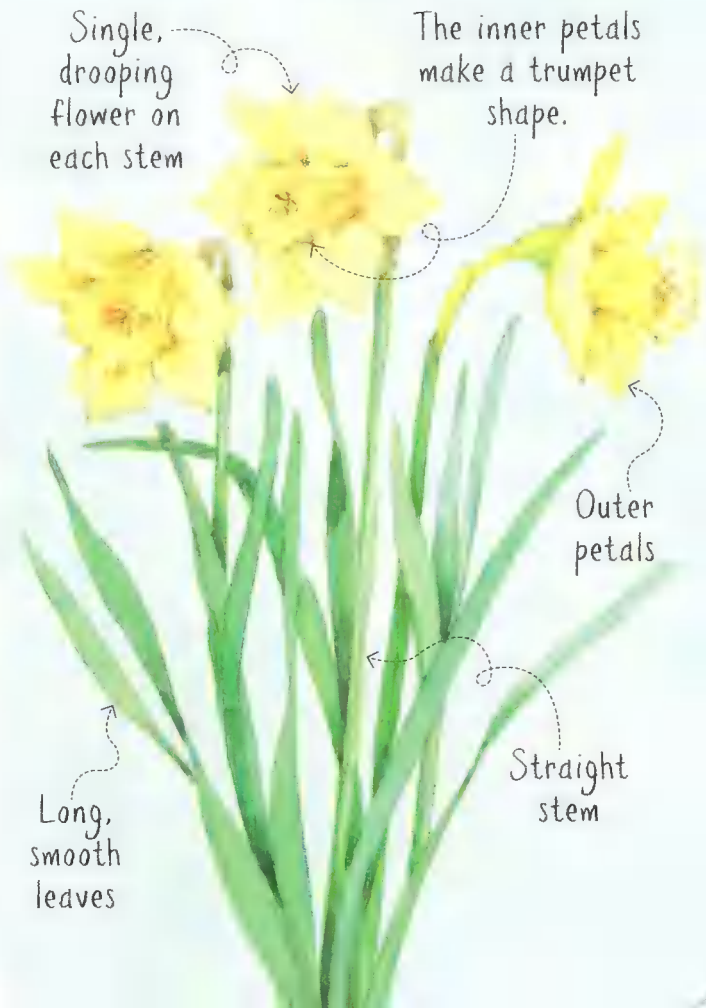
Single,
drooping
flower on
each stem

The inner petals
make a trumpet
shape.

Outer
petals

Straight
stem

Long,
smooth
leaves

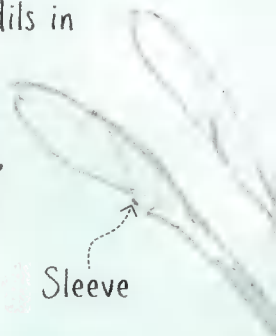




Daffodils are spring flowers.
They come out between
March and April.

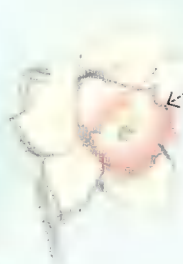
Look for clumps of daffodils in
woods and grassy places.

You might notice a brown,
papery sleeve behind each
flower. This protects
the bud as it opens out.

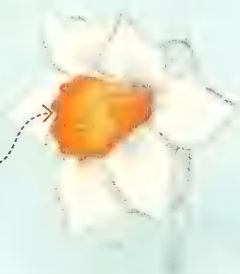


Sleeve

Sometimes, you can spot daffodils
with pink or red trumpets.



Pink
trumpet

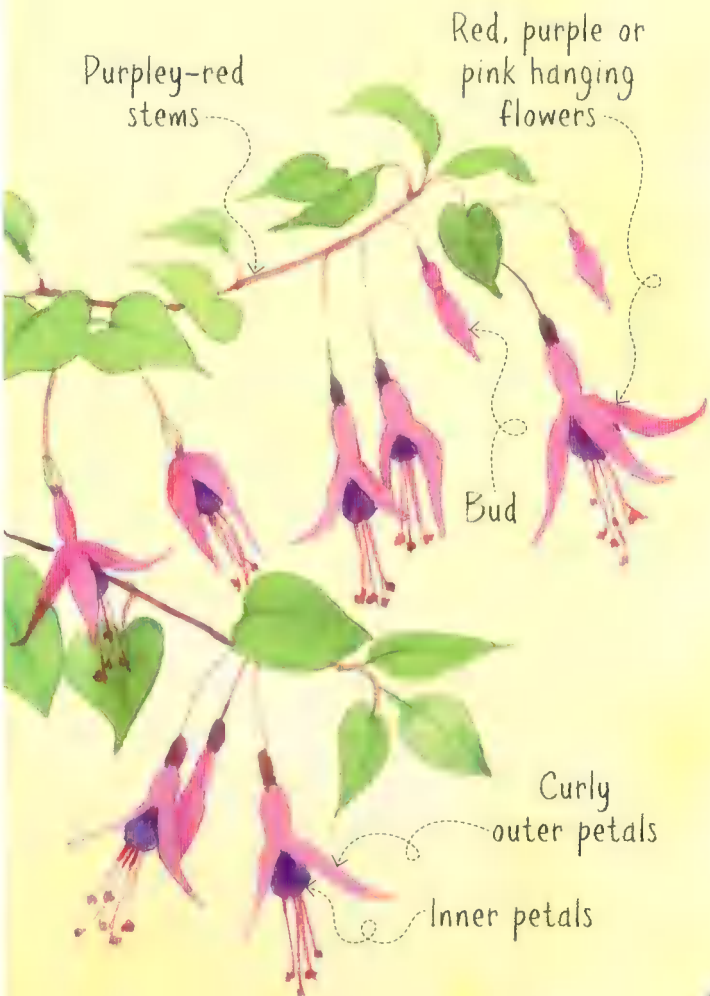


Red
trumpet



Flowery fact: Daffodils are the national flower
of Wales.

Fuchsia



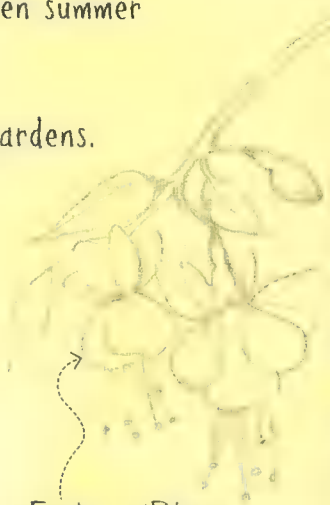


Fuchsias (say few-shuz)
flower between summer
and autumn.

Look for fuchsias in gardens.

They can grow as
bushes, hedges or as
potted plants.

Some fuchsias are
named after
ballerinas. The petals
look like tutus with
dangly 'legs'.



Fuchsia 'Blaue
Ballerina'



When the
flowers die,
fuchsias begin
to grow berries.

Flowerly fact: Most wild fuchsias grow in the
rainforests of Central and South America.



Foxglove

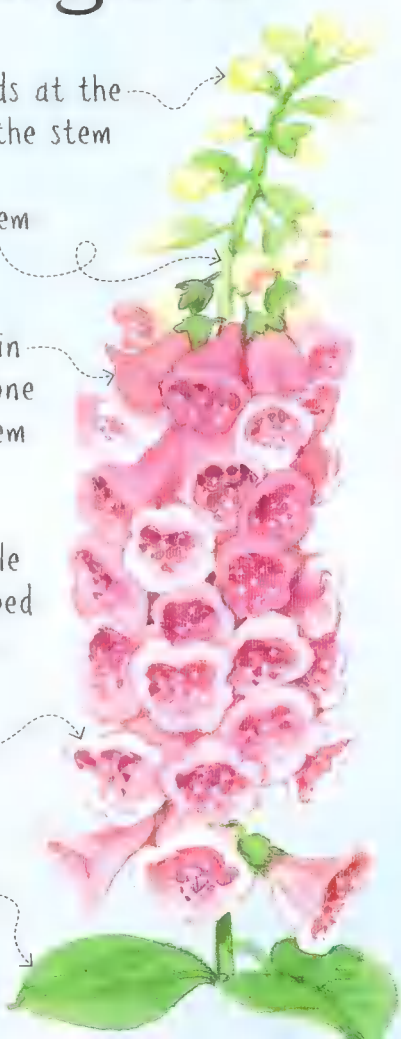
Pale buds at the
tip of the stem

Tall, thick stem

Flowers hang in
clusters down one
side of the stem

The pinky-purple
flowers are shaped
like trumpets.

Large, fuzzy
leaves grow at
the bottom





Foxgloves come out between June and September. Look for them in gardens and woods.

If you look inside each flower, you'll see lots of white and red spots on the petals.



Bumblebees follow the spots towards the sweet juices inside.



Don't touch foxgloves as they are very poisonous.



Flowery fact: The name 'foxglove' comes from 'folk's glove', as people used to believe that fairy folk lived in the woods where foxgloves grew.

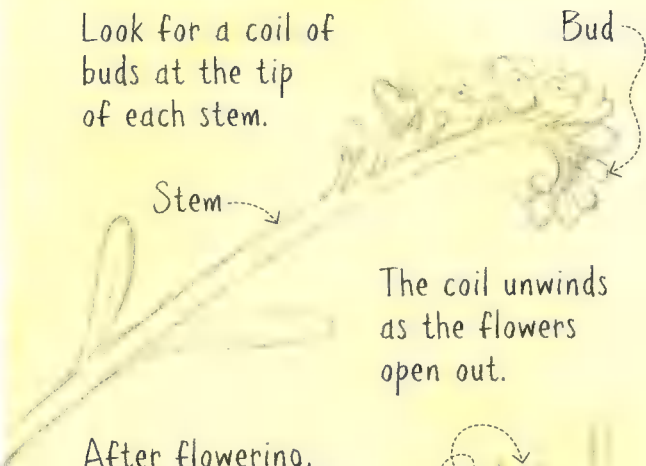
Forget-me-not





Forget-me-nots are spring flowers. They grow in fields and gardens.


Look for a coil of buds at the tip of each stem.



The coil unwinds as the flowers open out.

After flowering, you'll see spiky seed pods along the stem. Each pod contains lots of little seeds.



 Flowery fact: In Germany, in the Middle Ages, forget-me-nots were worn as a symbol of love.

Hyacinth

The curly
petals make a
star shape.

Tightly-packed,
waxy flowers



Shiny,
chunky
leaves

One or two
thick stems



Hyacinths flower between March and April.

Onion-shaped bulb

Roots

You can see hyacinths in gardens, or growing indoors in pots or jars.

The flowers begin as shiny buds which poke out from inside a tunnel of leaves.

Buds

Together, the flowers give off a strong, sweet smell.

Flowerly fact: 250 years ago, the royal palace of France was filled with hyacinths. They became the most fashionable plant in France.

Honeysuckle





Honeysuckle flowers come out between June and August.

Look for honeysuckle in woods, where they wind around trees and bushes.

At night, the flowers release a sweet smell to help insects find them in the dark.



After the flowers have died away, see if you can spot clusters of red berries on the stems.



Berries



Flowery fact: Mice and birds often nest between honeysuckle stems.

Hollyhock

The flowers are
shaped a bit
like saucers.

Bud

Delicate
petals

Tall, thick
stem

Wrinkled
leaves with
jagged edges

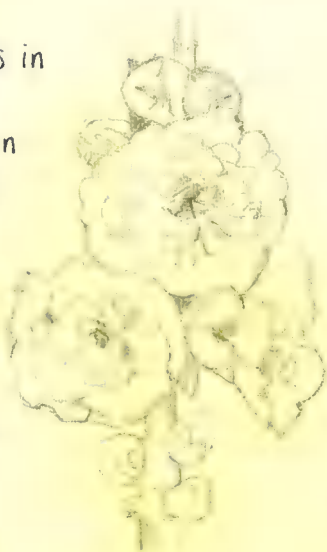




Hollyhock flowers come out in summer, between June and September.

Look for hollyhocks in gardens. They are very tall, and often lean against walls.

Some kinds of hollyhock have large, ruffled flowers which look like scrunched-up tissue paper.

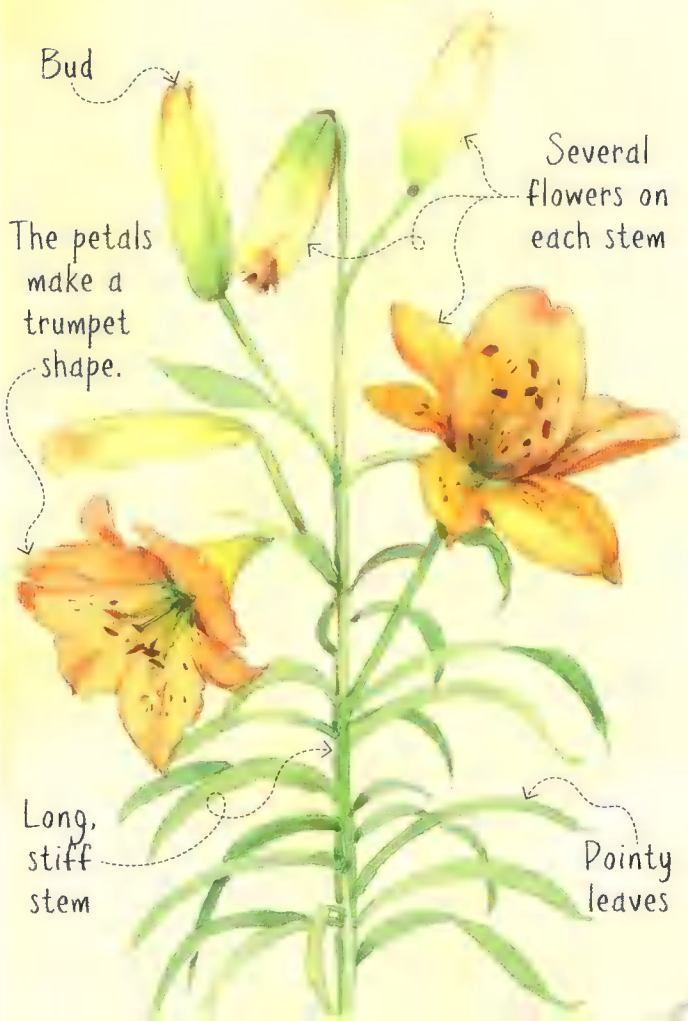


Beetles love to eat hollyhocks. See if you can spot any on the leaves.



Flowery fact: Some hollyhocks can grow almost as tall as an elephant.

Lily

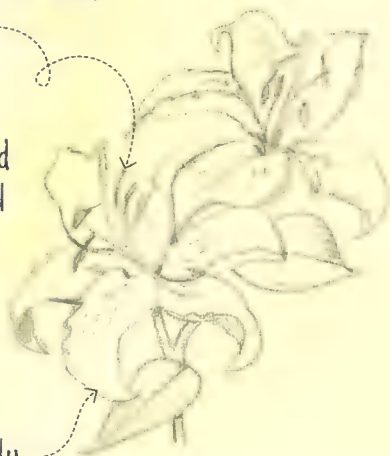




Look for lilies during summer.
You can find them in gardens,
or growing indoors in pots.

Inside each flower you'll see dusty,
yellow clumps on the ends
of thin stalks.

This dust is called
pollen. Be careful
not to touch it
as it can stain
your clothes.



'Star Gazer' lily

There are lots of different kinds of
lilies. Some, like 'Star Gazer' lilies,
have colourful, frilly petals.



Flowerly fact: White lilies are a Christian symbol
of purity.

Lavender

Greyish-green,
velvety leaves

Purple flowers spiral
up each stem.

Long,
square
stems

Bud





Lavender flowers come out during the summer months.

You might recognize the strong, sweet smell of lavender. It grows in sprawling bushes.



Look for bees buzzing around lavender – the flowers are filled with sweet juice, which bees use to make honey.



Flowery fact: The Ancient Egyptians used oil produced from lavender to mummify bodies.

Iris



Three upright
inner-petals

Three drooping
outer-petals

Thick
stem

Flat
leaves



Look for irises in spring and summer. They grow in gardens, woods, or sometimes by rivers.

Irises are named after the Greek goddess of rainbows, because they grow in many different colours.

Some irises have tiny yellow hairs in the middle of each flower. They are called bearded irises.



Yellow
beard



Flowery fact: One type of iris has a meaty smell. It's called a stinking iris or a roast beef plant.

Pansy

Five
velvety
petals

Dark centre,
called a 'face'

Bud

Slightly
jagged leaves





You can see pansies in flower all year round.

Pansies come in lots of different colours.



See if you can spot patterns on the petals. Some have lines on them which look a bit like cats' whiskers.



Wild pansy



Wild pansies are smaller than garden pansies. Look for them in woods and hedgerows.

Flowery fact: The name 'pansy' comes from 'pensée', the French for 'thought'. This is because the flowers can look like faces nodding while they're thinking.

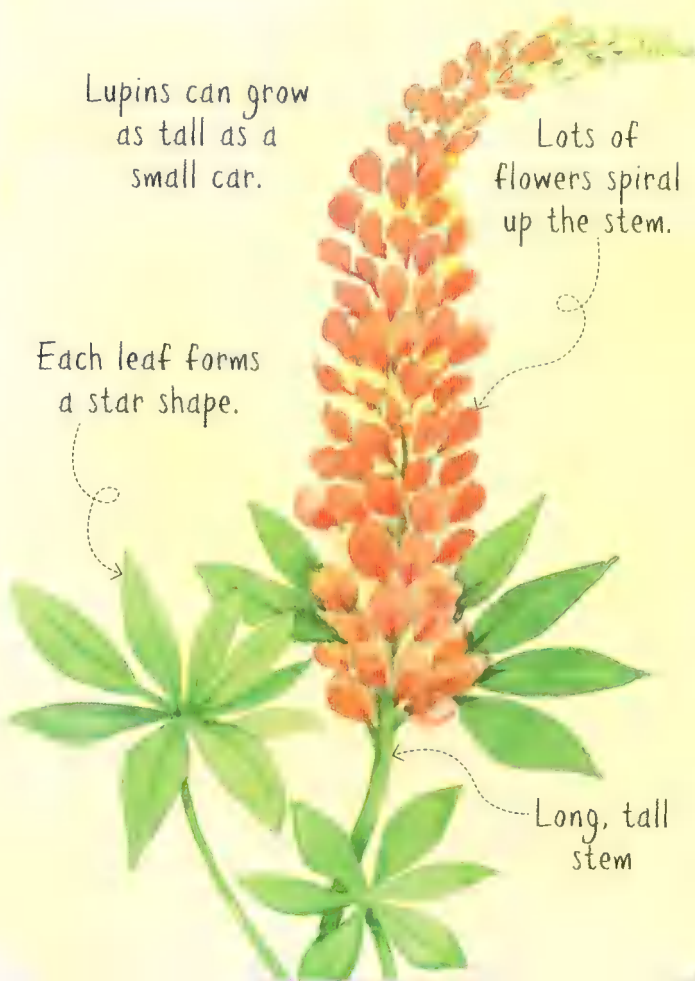
Lupin

Lupins can grow
as tall as a
small car.

Lots of
flowers spiral
up the stem.

Each leaf forms
a star shape.

Long, tall
stem



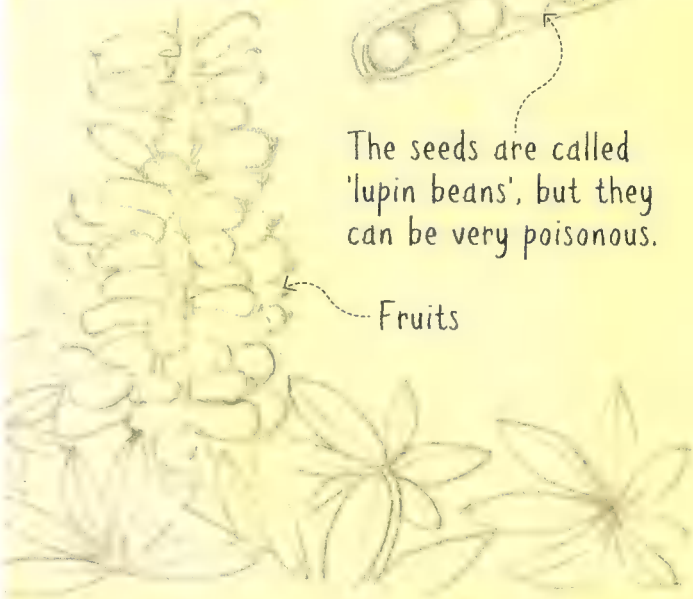


Lupins flower between June and August. Look for them in gardens.

In September, lupins grow small, hairy fruits along the stem. Inside each fruit is a row of seeds.



The seeds are called 'lupin beans', but they can be very poisonous.



Fruits

Flowery fact: Lupins can be all sorts of colours, including purple, red and yellow, and some are a mixture of colours.



Lily-of-the-valley

Wide, leathery
leaves



Lots of little
bell-shaped
flowers

Strong,
wide stem





Lilies-of-the-valley are spring flowers. They come out in May.

Look for lilies-of-the-valley in gardens and woods. They smell very sweet.

By September, the flowers have died. Look for clusters of red berries hanging along the stems. They are filled with seeds.



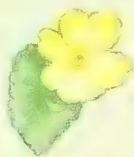
Lilies-of-the-valley can be poisonous, so be careful not to touch them.



Flowery fact: According to legend, when St. George fought the dragon, lilies-of-the-valley appeared from his blood.

Primrose





Primroses flower between December and May. You can find them growing in woods and hedgerows.

If you look closely at primroses, you'll see there are two kinds of flowers.

One kind of flower has a bunch of tiny yellow stalks in the middle, which make a star shape.



The other kind of flower has a single stalk in the middle, like a pinhead.



Flowery fact: In the Middle Ages, primroses were used in love potions.

Poppy

Delicate,
paper-thin
petals



Bud

Hairy stem



Narrow leaves with
jagged edges





Poppies bloom from June to September.

Look for poppies in gardens, cornfields and wasteland.

They also grow on stony ground.



When their petals fall, a seed pod is left behind. It soon grows hard, and holes appear along the top.

Seed pod

Holes

Seeds

As the wind blows, tiny, black seeds are scattered like pepper from a pepper pot.



Flowery fact: Some poppy seeds produce an oil that is used to make artists' paints.

Peony

Bud

The petals
make a
bowl shape.

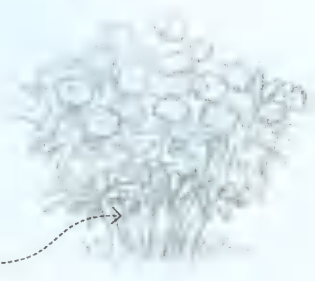
Pointed
leaves with
rough edges





Peonies flower during spring and early summer. You can find them in gardens.

Look for a bushy plant with lots of stems.



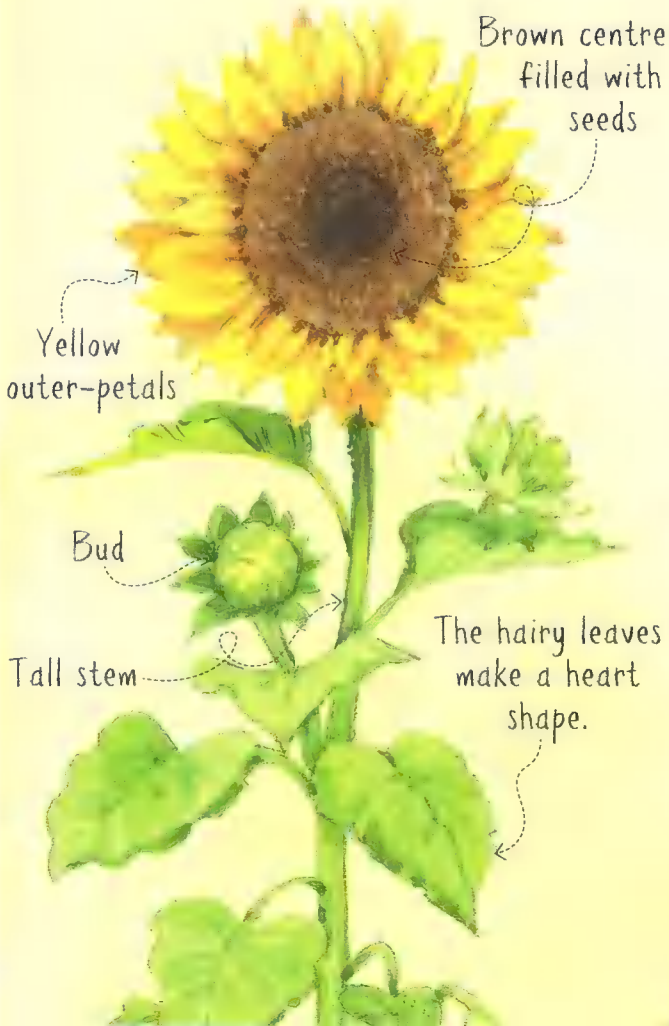
Stems

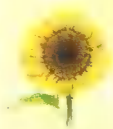
At the end of summer, see if you can spot the hard fruit. They can be poisonous, so don't touch them.



Flowery fact: Peony flowers come in every colour except blue.

Sunflower





Sunflowers open between
February and October.

You can spot rows of sunflowers
growing in fields.

During the day, sunflower
buds tilt to face the sun,
and slowly follow it
round in the sky.

After the flowers
have dried out,
lots of seeds are
left behind.
Birds love
to eat them.

Seed



Flowerly fact: Some sunflowers can grow as tall as
a double-decker bus.



Snowdrop

Single white
flower on
each stalk

Each flower has three
large petals shaped
like teardrops.

Smaller
petals
inside

Long,
slim
stalks





Look for snowdrop shoots poking up from the ground at the end of winter.

You'll find snowdrops growing in woods, gardens and by streams.



The buds are hidden inside tough leaves.

The leaves keep the plant safe as it pushes through the frosty ground.



Flowery fact: If you look closely, you'll see that the snowdrops' smallest petals have bright green tips.

Rose



Lots of
petals

The bud is
shaped like
a cone.

Glossy
leaves

Stiff,
prickly stem



Roses are summer flowers.
You'll find them in gardens,
or you might spot wild roses
in woods.

Dog roses are common
wild roses.



They have flat
flowers, which
are usually white
or pink.

At the end of summer,
roses grow shiny red
or orange fruits.
These are called rose hips.



Flowery fact: Rose fossils have been found which
show that roses existed 35 million years ago.

Wild orchid





Wild orchids are spring and summer flowers.

You can find wild orchids growing in woods and grassy places. There are lots of different kinds.

Some have cleverly patterned petals, which look a bit like a bumblebee.



Patterned petal

Sack

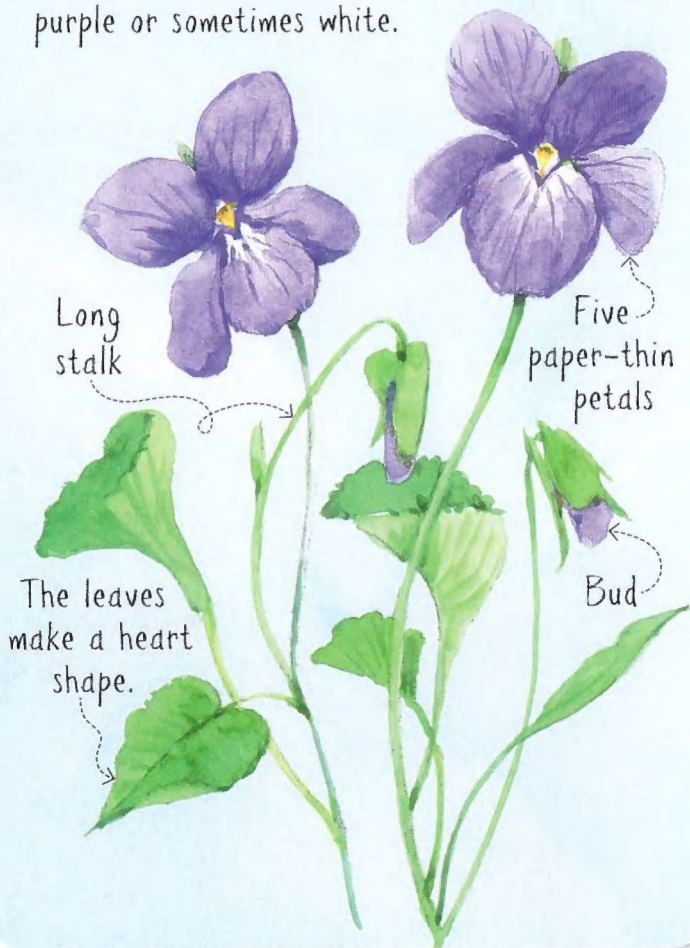


Others have petals shaped like sacks, which can trap insects inside.

Flowery fact: In rainforests, wild orchids often grow on tree branches rather than on the ground.

Violet

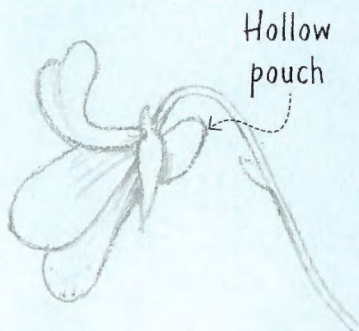
The flowers are blue,
purple or sometimes white.





Violets come out between February and June. Look for them in woods and gardens.

See if you can spot a hollow pouch behind each flower. This contains sugary juice.



There are different kinds of violets. Sweet violets have a sweet smell.



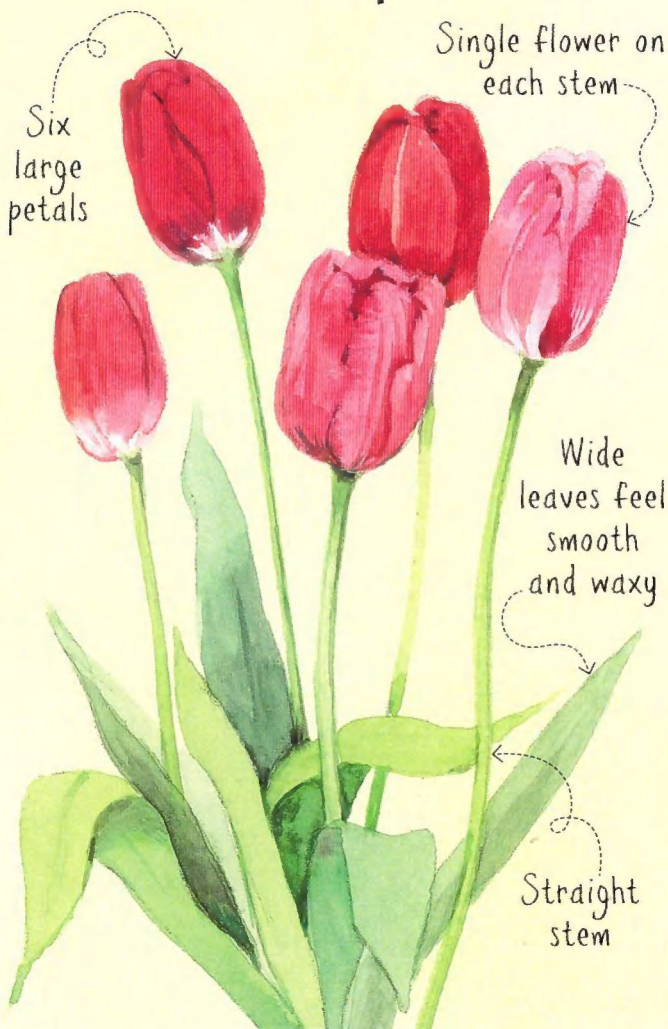
Common dog violets don't smell and have a 'beard' of tiny white hairs.

Hairs



Flowery fact: 600 years ago, sweet violets were spread over damp floors to sweeten the air.

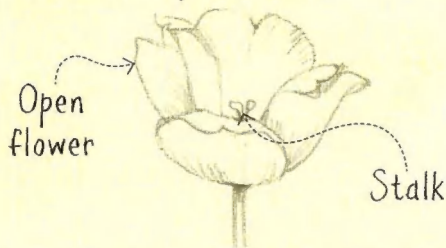
Tulip





Tulips are garden flowers.
They flower in spring.

On sunny days, tulip petals open out to make a bowl shape.



Look for little stalks inside the flower.
They are covered in a fine powder called pollen.



See if you can spot
different kinds of tulips.
Parrot tulips have frilly
petals which look a bit
like a parrot's feathers.



Flowery fact: In Holland, in the 17th century, tulips were very rare. They became so popular that a single tulip bulb could cost more than a house.